

B. Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as indicated in the following listing of the claims, which replaces all prior versions thereof.

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Claim 1 (currently amended): A system for routing a communication directed to a directory number, wherein a redirection service is operative with respect to the communication directed to the directory number to automatically direct the communication away from the directory number, without intervention by a calling party, to at least one other directory number whenever the directory number to which the communication was directed is temporarily inoperative due to a temporary service disruption, the system comprising:

a switch configured to receive the communication in a switched telephone network, wherein the communication is directed to the temporarily inoperative directory number having the directory redirection service, and wherein the switch is configured to detect the temporarily inoperative directory number associated with the communication; and

a service control point, in communication with the switch, wherein the switch is configured to provide the temporarily inoperative directory number to the service control point, and wherein the service control point includes a database of subscriber information maintained by the network, and wherein the service control point is configured to search the database of subscriber information for a matching entry to the temporarily inoperative directory number, and wherein the service control point is configured to instruct the switch to redirect the communication away from the temporarily inoperative directory number to the at least one other directory number

upon finding the matching entry, and wherein the service control point is configured to retain the temporarily inoperative directory number in the database for routing a subsequent communication thereto after the temporary service disruption has been resolved.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The system of claim 1, wherein the switch is configured to detect an the temporarily inoperative directory number by testing for a cable fault.

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Claim 3 (original): The system of claim 2, wherein the switch is configured to test for the cable fault in a feeder cable.

Claim 4 (original): The system of claim 3, wherein the database of subscriber information includes one or more alternate directory numbers pursuant to a preselected redirection scheme.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): The system of claim ~~5~~ 4, wherein the switch routes the communication to the temporarily inoperative directory number to which the communication was directed when no corresponding entry is found in the database.

Claim 7 (original): The system of claim 6, further comprising:

a service management system, in communication with the service control point, for downloading subscriber information to the database.

3/ Claim 8 (currently amended): A method for routing a communication directed to a directory number, wherein a redirection service is operative with respect to the communication directed to the directory number to automatically direct the communication away from the directory number, without intervention by a calling party, to at least one other directory number whenever the directory number to which the communication was directed is temporarily inoperative due to a temporary service disruption, the method comprising:

configuring a switch to receive the communication in a switched telephone network, wherein the communication is directed to the temporarily inoperative directory number having the directory redirection service;

configuring the switch to detect the temporarily inoperative directory number associated with the communication;

connecting a service control point to the switch;

configuring the switch to provide the temporarily inoperative directory number to the service control point;

maintaining a database of subscriber information;

configuring the service control point to search the database of subscriber information for a matching entry to the temporarily inoperative directory number; and

configuring the service control point to:

instruct the switch to redirect the communication away from the temporarily inoperative directory number to the at least one other directory number upon finding the matching entry, and

retain the temporarily inoperative directory number for routing a subsequent communication thereto after the service disruption has been resolved.

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Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 8, wherein configuring the switch to detect the temporarily inoperative directory number includes:

testing for a cable fault.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 9, wherein configuring the switch to detect the temporarily inoperative directory number includes:

testing for cable fault in a feeder cable.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein maintaining a database includes:

maintaining one or more alternate directory numbers pursuant to a preselected redirection scheme.

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~42~~ 11, further comprising:

routing the communication to the temporarily inoperative directory number to which the communication was directed when no corresponding entry is found in the database.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein maintaining the database includes:

downloading subscriber information to the database.

(3) Claim 15 (currently amended): A system for routing a communication directed to a directory number, wherein a redirection service is operative with respect to the communication directed to the directory number to automatically direct the communication away from the directory number, without intervention by a calling party, to at least one other directory number whenever the directory number to which the communication was directed is temporarily inoperative due to a temporary service disruption, the method comprising:

means for configuring a switch to receive the communication in a switched telephone network, wherein the communication is directed to the temporarily inoperative directory number having the directory redirection service;

means for configuring the switch to detect the temporarily inoperative directory number associated with the communication;

means for connecting a service control point to the switch;

means for configuring the switch to provide the temporarily inoperative directory number to the service control point;

means for maintaining a database of subscriber information;

means for configuring the service control point to search the database of subscriber information for a matching entry to the temporarily inoperative directory number; and

means for configuring the service control point to instruct the switch to redirect the communication away from the temporarily inoperative directory number to the at least one other directory number upon finding the matching entry, and

means for configuring the service control point to retain the temporarily inoperative directory number for routing a subsequent communication thereto after the service disruption has been resolved.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of claim 15, wherein configuring the switch to detect the temporarily inoperative directory number includes:

means for testing for a cable fault.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The system of claim 16, wherein configuring the switch to detect the temporarily inoperative directory number includes:

means for testing for cable fault in a feeder cable.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17, wherein maintaining a database includes:

maintaining one or more alternate directory numbers pursuant to a preselected redirection scheme.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): The system of claim ~~19~~ 18, further comprising:
means for routing the communication to the temporarily inoperative directory
number to which the communication was directed when no corresponding entry is found
in the database.

Claim 21 (original): The system of claim 20, wherein maintaining the database
includes:

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means for downloading subscriber information to the database.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium having stored
thereon instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor
to perform the steps of:

configuring a switch to receive a communication in a switched telephone
network, wherein the communication is directed to a directory number having a
directory service, wherein the directory service is a redirection service that is
operative with respect to the communication directed to the directory number and
automatically directs the communication away from the directory number, without
intervention by a calling party, to at least one other directory number whenever
the directory number to which the communication was directed is temporarily
inoperative due to a temporary service disruption;

configuring the switch to detect an the temporarily inoperative directory number associated with the communication;

connecting a service control point to the switch;

configuring the switch to provide the temporarily inoperative directory number to the service control point;

maintaining a database of subscriber information at the service control point;

configuring the service control point to search the database of subscriber information for a matching entry to the temporarily inoperative ~~inoperable~~ directory number; and

configuring the service control point to instruct the switch to redirect the communication away from the temporarily inoperative directory number to the at least one other directory number upon finding the matching entry; and

configuring the service control point to retain the temporarily inoperative directory number for routing a subsequent communication thereto after the service disruption has been resolved.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The medium of claim 22, wherein configuring the switch to detect the temporarily inoperative directory number includes:
testing for a cable fault.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The medium of claim 23, wherein configuring the switch to detect the temporarily inoperative number directory includes:

testing for cable fault in a feeder cable.

Claim 25 (original): The medium of claim 24, wherein maintaining a database includes:

maintaining one or more alternate directory numbers pursuant to a preselected redirection scheme.

Claim 26 (canceled)

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Claim 27 (currently amended): The medium of claim ~~26~~ 25, further comprising:
routing the communication to the temporarily inoperative directory number to which the communication was directed when no corresponding entry is found in the database.

Claim 28 (original): The medium of claim 27, wherein maintaining the database includes:

downloading subscriber information to the database.
